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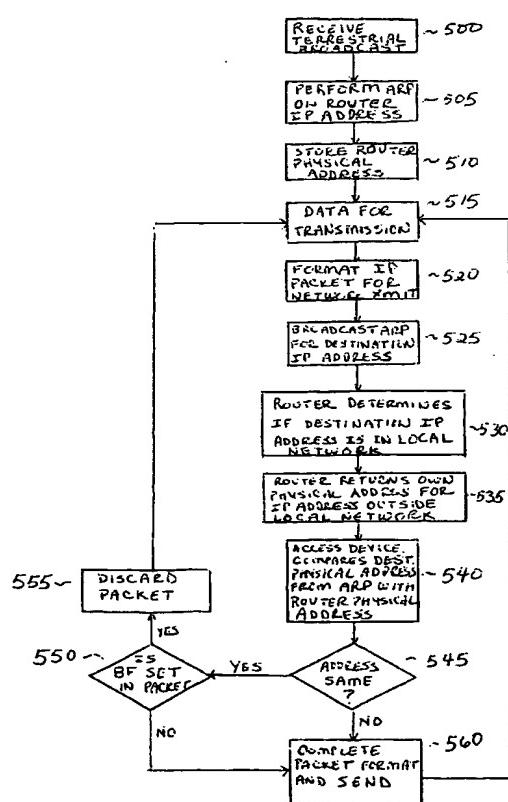
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING THE DISTRIBUTION OF DIGITALLY ENCODED DATA IN A NETWORK



(57) **Abstract:** An apparatus and a method for controlling distribution of digital content from a device attached to a network to another device outside the network. The device receives a digital signal containing content, the digital signal having an authorization field indicative of a first transport mode authorizing the content for distribution outside the network, and of a second transport mode wherein the content is not authorized for transmission outside the network. The method comprises the steps of receiving location information of a router on the network for routing content to devices outside the network; receiving destination data indicative of location information associated with a destination device to which the device intends to distribute the content; determining whether the destination device is outside the network based on the router location information and the received destination data; examining the authorization field and, inhibiting transmission of the content if the destination device is outside the network and the digital signal is in the inhibit mode.

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